



Saint Bridget of Sweden Parish

Where Christ is our Light

March 6, 2021

RE: *Tristan's Law*, proposed SB Bill No. 608, An Act Concerning The Safety of Children When Buying Ice Cream From a Frozen Dessert Truck.

Dear members of the Transportation Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to address your committee. My name is Father Jeffrey Romans and I have been privileged for the past six years to serve as the Pastor at Saint Bridget of Sweden Parish in Cheshire with over 3,000 families which also involves being the Priest Director at St. Bridget School which has just over 300 students from around 200 families.

I am writing to request that you support proposed SB Bill No. 608 to enact safety protocols concerning the use and operation of ice cream trucks and frozen dessert vending trucks.

On June 12, 2020, our school and parish family experienced a tragic loss when one of our students very young life, Tristan D. Barhorst age 10, suddenly came to an end after a tragic incident involving an ice cream truck and another vehicle on Wiese Road in Cheshire. What was the last day of the school year, normally a time of joy, in an instant became a horrible experience for many of us. I was not at the scene but was contacted by the Cheshire Police Chief and notified of what happened and that a number of my students were present and witnessed the horrific event. I immediately responded to the scene to be with those that witnessed this tragic incident and then rushed down to the Hospital in New Haven to simply be with Tristan's family. You see they are my personal friends, as well as my parishioners, and this loss was real for me too.

The Barhorst family lost their son and brother, my parish and school families lost not only a member of our community but a dear friend to so many, a smile that illuminated our halls each day!

As we continue to work through this tremendous loss, and do our best to honor Tristan's memory while we continue on each day without his smile and presence among us, I implore you all, as members of the legislature, to act and pass this proposed SB Bill No. 608 so no community ever has to experience such a horrific event in the future.

This is not a political issue, this is not a party issue, this is common sense legislation that could save communities from experiencing tragic losses in the future. Children are our future; I trust you will vote to do all that you can to ensure their safety, and to reduce the risk of another community and another family from having to endure the pain our community and Tristan's family have had to endure. Please vote to pass SB Bill No. 608 today! Please name this Bill "*Tristan's Law*" to honor our friend, an amazing and incredible soul.

Very truly yours,

The Reverend Jeffrey V. Romans, KCHS
Pastor, Saint Bridget of Sweden Parish, Cheshire
Priest Director, St. Bridget School, Cheshire